

Thornridge High School

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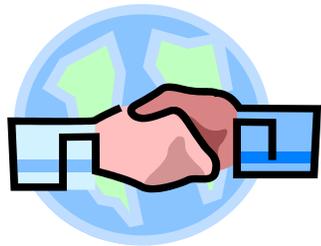
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Peer Mediation Program



Peer Mediation Program

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A program designed to teach students to peacefully resolve conflicts with their peers.

Peer Mediation Program Overview

What is peer mediation?

Peer mediation is not meant to reprimand; it is a first step in solving conflicts. The process allows students to take an active role in resolving conflicts and determining solutions to problems by initiating face-to-face discussions between students. Disputants are joined by two peer mediators. An adult mediator is in the area to listen and keep discussions constructive and on track.

When is peer mediation necessary?

Peer mediation is needed when students encounter a problem that they are unable to solve without help. Generally the problem is between two students and may involve gossip, rumors, teasing, property, friendship issues, girl/boyfriend issues or name-calling. More serious issues, such as heated fights or arguments, or weapons, etc. are dealt with through the school discipline policy and should be referred to a dean.

How does peer mediation work?

1-Referrals should be done using the peer mediation forms. (Emails are not acceptable). It takes 24-72 hours to have a referral honored due to the primary duties of the peer mediation sponsor. Attempts to hold the mediation will be documented from the day the referral is received. After three unsuccessful attempts, the person who referred the case will be notified.

2- The two disputants meet with one to two peer mediators or an adult mediator (peer mediation sponsor). First the mediator states the ground rules. When the mediation begins, the peer mediators try to help the disputants resolve the conflict by asking questions pertaining to the situation on the referral. Each disputant talks one at a time. Together the mediators and the students decide how to resolve the problem. (The sponsor has the right to terminate a mediation that is disruptive and refer the case to the dean for resolution).

3-The resolution is written down on one form and the students sign a peace treaty that states they will get an automatic 10 day suspension if major conflict (i.e. fight) arises from the mediated situation; each disputant's dean will receive a copy of the resolution and the peace treaty will be placed in the student's discipline file.

What is the peer mediator's role?

The mediator's primary role is to listen and help the disputants discuss their problems. Each mediation is confidential which is stressed during the mediator's training. The mediators are trained to handle mediations, but they do not have the skills to handle challenging situations.

When does mediation take place?

Mediations will take place during the course of the school day. Heavy consideration is placed on calling students down during appropriate times during the day. When call slips are sent, they will be marked with a "PM" on them so teachers are aware that mediation will take place.

Is peer mediation used for all conflicts?

No. Teachers and deans should make referrals that are appropriate for students to handle. Major issues that require immediate disciplinary actions should be referred to deans. Peer mediators do not issue disciplinary actions to students.

How can students request peer mediation?

Students can request peer mediation through their school counselors or by completing a referral form with their teacher.